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ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

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September 25, 2006

Mr. Bob Ward  
Senior Manager  
Policy Communication  
Royal Society  
6-9 Carlton House Terrace  
London SW1Y 5AG

Dear Mr. Ward:

I am writing to commend you for your recent efforts to urge ExxonMobil to stop funding organizations that are spreading misinformation regarding the science of global warming. From recent press reports it appears that you are having some success.

I wanted to share with you the identity of one organization funded by ExxonMobil that has worked to mislead Members of the U.S. Congress regarding global warming science. On February 10, 2005, the American Petroleum Institute (API) faxed members of the U.S. Congress a document claiming that a 1998 study by Dr. Michael Mann<sup>1</sup> had been "discredited." API claimed that this study was "the central evidence cited by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that humans were already causing the climate to warm." API also claims that this study was "the basis for policy papers such as the September 2004 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment." As a result, API demands that the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment be "re-evaluated." I have attached a copy of this fax for your convenience.

Of course, these claims are ridiculous. The 1998 study has not been discredited. In fact, a recent National Academy of Sciences report upheld its principle findings.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment is a comprehensively researched and independently reviewed evaluation of the impacts of climate change on the arctic. The Assessment was an international

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<sup>1</sup> Mann, M.E., Bradley, R.S., Hughes, M.K., *Global-Scale Temperature Patterns and Climate Forcing Over the Past Six Centuries*, Nature, 392, 779-787 (1998).

<sup>2</sup> National Research Council, *Surface Temperature Reconstructions for the Last 2,000 Years* (June 2006).

Mr. Bob Ward  
September 25, 2006  
Page 2

effort with the participation of hundreds of scientists over four years.<sup>3</sup> API's effort can only be interpreted as a crude effort to cast baseless doubt on the Assessment.

These types of scurrilous misrepresentations by API are particularly unhelpful. Not only do API's actions confuse and mislead the public and lawmakers, they also are potentially damaging to the reputation of individual researchers. API's actions may well have been a cause of two hearings held in the U.S. House of Representatives this summer that amounted to a personal attack on Dr. Mann. API's actions could likely have chilling and distracting effects upon the scientific community.

API is the U.S. trade association that represents all aspects of the nation's oil and natural gas industry. API is often the face of the oil industry in the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Executive Branch, state governments and the media.<sup>4</sup> ExxonMobil is a member of API.<sup>5</sup> In fact, Rex W. Tillerson, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Exxon Mobil Corporation, is a director and a member of the Executive Committee and Policy Committee of API.<sup>6</sup>

If ExxonMobil is to truly stop funding groups that are misleading the public and policymakers on global warming, it must discontinue its funding of the American Petroleum Institute. Alternatively, ExxonMobil could use its considerable sway within API to bring them to recognize the serious threat of global warming and begin to seek solutions.

Again, congratulations on your efforts.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member

Enclosure

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<sup>3</sup> Arctic Climate Impact Assessment website, *Arctic Climate Impact Assessment* (online at <http://amap.no/acia/>) (accessed on Sept. 22, 2006).

<sup>4</sup> American Petroleum Institute website, *About API* (online at <http://www.api.org/aboutapi/>) (accessed on Sept. 22, 2006).

<sup>5</sup> American Petroleum Institute website, *API Members* (online at <http://www.api.org/resources/members/index.cfm>) (accessed on Sept. 22, 2006).

<sup>6</sup> ExxonMobil website, *Our Management* (online at [http://www.exxonmobil.com/Corporate/About/OurManagement/Corp\\_OM\\_Tillerson.asp](http://www.exxonmobil.com/Corporate/About/OurManagement/Corp_OM_Tillerson.asp)) (accessed on Sept. 22, 2006).

02/10/05 13:55

API->Waxman, Henry A.

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F A X C O V E R S H E E T

TO :			
ATTN. :	Waxman, Henry A.		
FAX # :	202-225-4099		
FROM :	API		
FAX # :	202-682-8294		
VOICE :	202-682-8312		
DATE :	Thursday, February 10, 2005 01:48 pm		
PAGES :	2 (including cover sheet)		ATTEMPTS : 2

February 10, 2005

# “Hockey Stick” Climate Warming Study Discredited

New research has revealed that a key study blaming humans for recent global warming is wrong because it used a flawed computer model.

## The Original “Hockey Stick” Global Warming Study

- The widely cited 1998 global warming study by Dr. Michael Mann<sup>1</sup> produced the “hockey stick” temperature graph that shows 900-plus years of flat temperatures followed by a spike in the last few decades.
- Mann’s “hockey stick” was the central evidence cited by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that humans were already causing the climate to warm. It was also the basis for policy papers such as the December 2004 Arctic Climate Impact Assessment.

## The Researchers and the Discovery

- Two Canadian analysts, Stephen McIntyre and Dr. Ross McKittrick, examined the original “hockey stick” research and found that, using Mann’s approach, even random data put into the climate model produced a hockey stick temperature pattern.<sup>2</sup>
- Mann’s “hockey stick” model misapplied a statistical tool called principal component analysis. In other words, the hockey stick is meaningless.
- McIntyre and McKittrick used correct statistical methods with the data and found that average temperatures for the 15<sup>th</sup> century actually exceed those of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This research has been accepted for publication in *Geophysical Research Letters* and *Energy & Environment* (publications scheduled for February 2005).

## Peer Review – What Other Scientists are Saying

- “[McIntyre and McKittrick] have uncovered a fundamental mathematical flaw in the computer program that was used to produce the hockey stick.”<sup>3</sup> -- *Richard A. Muller, Berkeley physics professor*
- “It is strange that the climate reconstruction of Mann has passed both peer review rounds of the IPCC without anyone ever really having checked it.”<sup>4</sup> -- *Dr. Rob van Dorland, climate scientist at the Dutch National Meteorological Agency and a lead IPCC author*
- McKittrick and McIntyre’s finding on the flawed Mann method is “entirely valid.”<sup>5</sup> -- *Dr. Hans von Storch, climate scientist at the GKSS Research Center in Geesthacht, Germany and a lead IPCC author*

## What It Means In the Debate on Climate Change

- The new research does not debunk the whole theory of global warming, simply the “hockey stick” claim, but it demonstrates that more scientific research is imperative.
- New policy initiatives must take into account our changed understanding. The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment and other reports based on Mann’s “hockey stick” must be re-evaluated.
- The IPCC should acknowledge the invalid “hockey stick” results and explain how earlier peer review of Mann’s research failed.

<sup>1</sup> Mann, M.E., Bradley, R.S. & Hughes, J.K. “Global-scale temperature patterns and climate forcing over the past six centuries,” *Nature* 392, (1998).

<sup>2</sup> “Hockey sticks, principal components and spurious significance,” *AGU Geophysical Research Letters*. “The M&M critique of the MBH98 northern hemisphere climate index: update and implications,” *Energy & Environment*.

<sup>3</sup> *MIT Technology Review*.

<sup>4</sup> *Financial Post*, January 28, 2005.

<sup>5</sup> *Financial Post*, January 27, 2005.